

Message Text

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TO AMEMBASSY CANBERRA PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 063018

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E.O. 11652:GDS

TAGS: OVIP (MONDALE, WALTER) AS

SUBJECT: SUBSTANTIVE ISSUES FOR VICE PRESIDENT'S TRIP

REF: CANBERRA 1750

1. APPRECIATE REFTEL CONVEYING DFA OBSERVATIONS ON SUBJECTS TO BE DISCUSSED DURING VICE PRESIDENT'S TRIP. WE VIEW VICE PRESIDENT'S VISIT TO CANBERRA PRIMARILY AS MEANS OF DEMONSTRATING BOTH THE CLOSENESS OF OUR TIES TO AUSTRALIA AND THE CONTINUED VITAL ROLE THE US INTENDS TO PLAY IN SECURITY AND DEVELOPMENT OF THE PACIFIC BASIN AS A WHOLE. VISIT IS ALSO DESIGNED TO ENGAGE AUSTRALIAN COOPERATION IN ADDRESSING CERTAIN GLOBAL ISSUES.

2. VICE PRESIDENT WILL WANT TO DISCUSS ALL TOPICS LISTED IN PARAGRAPH 3, REFTEL. HE CAN ALSO BE EXPECTED TO RAISE
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PAGE 02 STATE 063018

QUESTIONS OF FOOD AND ENERGY, WHICH ARE LIKELY TO BE MAJOR THEMES OF HIS ASIAN VISIT. SPECIFICALLY HE WILL PROBABLY WANT TO SOUND OUT GOA ON GREATER AUSTRALIAN PARTICIPATION IN HELPING ATTACK WORLD AND REGIONAL FOOD SHORTAGES BY SUCH MEASURES AS CREATION OF GRAIN RESERVES AND ASSISTING LDC'S TO INCREASE THEIR OWN PRODUCTION. ON ENERGY, VP WILL WISH TO EXPLORE ALTERNATIVES ENERGY

SUPPLIES, INCLUDING CONTINUED AUSTRALIAN-US COOPERATION

IN NUCLEAR ENERGY FIELD; PLUS POSSIBLE COOPERATION IN
OTHER AREAS SUCH AS COAL GASIFICATION, BOTH BILATERALLY
AND REGIONALLY. --

3. WE AGREE WITH GOA PREFERENCE (REFTEL) TO AVOID DETAILED
BILATERAL PROBLEMS. VICE PRESIDENT WILL BE PREPARED TO
DISCUSS BILATERAL AND MULTILATERAL TRADE ISSUES IF RAISED
HOWEVER, IN VIEW OF RECENT WOLFF AND GARLAND VISITS
AND FREQUENT WORKING LEVEL DISCUSSIONS ON BILATERAL
TRADE WE DO NOT ENVISAGE VISIT AS OPPORTUNITY TO GO OVER
THIS GROUND AGAIN IN ANY DETAIL.

4. REQUEST EMBASSY CONVEY THOUGHTS PARAS 2 AND 3 ABOVE
,O GOA, ELCITING ITS COMMENTS. WOULD OF COURSE APPRECIATE
ANY SUGGESTIONS AND COMMENTS EMBASSY ITSELF MIGHT WANT
TO MAKE. VANCE

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